

1400 Independence Avenue SW, Room 4162 South Building, Washington, D.C. 20250-2000.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Signed at Washington, D.C., October 3, 1997.

Rich Allen,

Acting Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service.

[FR Doc. 97-27748 Filed 10-20-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-20-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

DOC has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. chapter 35).

Agency: Bureau of the Census.

Title: Annual Commodity Survey Test.

Form Number(s): MA25Z, MA28X, MA28Z.

Agency Approval Number: None.

Type of Request: New collection.

Burden: 4,380 hours.

Number of Respondents: 2,900.

Avg Hours Per Response: 1.5 hours.

Needs and Uses: The proposed information collection is a test of an alternate method of collecting manufacturers' product shipments data. Currently, we collect product class shipments from the establishments in the Annual Survey of Manufactures (ASM) and product shipments in the Census of Manufactures every five years. We also collect product shipments for various products from a combination of companies and establishments in the Current Industrial Reports (CIR) series. The data from the CIR, while quite detailed, do not cover all manufactured products. The data from the ASM, while comprehensive, does not provide sufficient detail for some users.

The Census Bureau would like to design a survey that would satisfy the need for both comprehensive and more detailed product data. The survey would collect detailed product shipments data from a sample of all manufacturing companies. The survey would cover all manufacturers' products at greater detail than the current ASM but less detail that is available in the existing CIR. If it is possible to successfully design such a survey, we could reduce the size of the ASM and

eliminate much of the existing CIR program and divert those resources to the new survey.

Before we give additional consideration to implementation, we are planning to test the concept. We plan to select a sample of approximately 2,900 companies and ask them to report their company level product shipments for data year 1997. We have drafted questionnaires and developed reporting instructions. We plan to compare the results of this test collection to data from the CIR program and the 1997 Census of Manufactures. Those comparisons and the results of response follow-up to the test survey should help us determine if this type of survey is feasible and likely to produce the results our data users need.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit.

Frequency: One-time.

Respondent's Obligation: Mandatory.

Legal Authority: Title 13 U.S.C., Section 182.

OMB Desk Officer: Jerry Coffey, (202) 395-7314.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Linda Engelmeier, DOC Forms Clearance Officer, (202) 482-3272, Department of Commerce, room 5312, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to Jerry Coffey, OMB Desk Officer, room 10201, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

Dated: October 15, 1997.

W. Dan Haigler,

Acting Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Management and Organization.

[FR Doc. 97-27820 Filed 10-20-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Institute of Standards and Technology

[Docket No. 970811195-7195-01]

Alternative Personnel Management System (APMS) at the National Institute of Standards and Technology

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of consolidation and republication of a demonstration project plan as a permanent system pursuant to Public Law 104-113.

SUMMARY: This notice (1) consolidates the original plan and the two subsequent amendments into a single document for better understanding and ease of use; (2) documents the procedures by which the equivalent of locality-based comparability payments are applied at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST); (3) specifies how to determine the General Schedule (GS) grade and rates of pay for employees who leave the NIST alternative personnel management system; (4) allows NIST to remove from the pay-for-performance system any positions not filled by career or career-conditional appointment; and (5) corrects, simplifies, and clarifies the project plan.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 21, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Allen Cassady at NIST on (301) 975-3031; Gail Redd at OPM on (202) 606-1521.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. Background

In accordance with Public Law 99-574, the NIST authorization act for 1987, OPM approved a demonstration project plan, "Alternative Personnel Management System at the National Institute of Standards and Technology," and published the plan in the **Federal Register** on October 2, 1987 (52 FR 37082). The project plan has been modified two times to clarify certain NIST authorities (54 FR 21331 of May 17, 1989, and 54 FR 33790 of August 16, 1989), and to revise the performance appraisal and pay administration systems to better link pay with performance (55 FR 19688 of May 10, 1990, and 55 FR 39220 of September 25, 1990).

In a letter to NIST dated December 30, 1993, OPM offered two options to NIST for implementing locality pay beginning in January 1994. Option 1 would have required implementation of locality pay in a manner as close as possible to the implementation for GS employees. Locality pay would have been separate from basic pay and would have counted as basic pay for the same limited purposes for which it is basic pay for GS employees (5 CFR 531.606(b)). Option 2 would allow NIST to incorporate the equivalent of locality pay into its own basic pay package.

NIST chose Option 2. Adjustments in pay band ranges and in eligible employees' basic pay rates are made at the time of GS general and/or locality pay increases. Pay rates under the NIST Alternative Personnel Management System (NIST APMS) will be basic pay